

Part of Something Bigger

Evolving and adapting as we embrace what's ahead

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I am honored to serve as your International President at a time when our Association's future is so bright. If I had one key message to share with our membership, it would be to recognize the impact that we have on people in every community around the globe. Just think about the thousands of miles of pipes, wires and roads that we have helped to build. It is this infrastructure that enables us to improve the quality of life for our citizens, and this is what makes what we do a noble calling. Together, we really do help build a better world.

A Vital Component

Throughout my career, I've been very fortunate to have had an employer who fully supported my personal and professional development. Through my involvement in IRWA, I was given the opportunity to test-drive my leadership skills through volunteer work at the Chapter, Region and International levels. I even had the opportunity to fail. But more importantly, I had the opportunity to grow.

Since many employers don't have the means to support membership for all of their staff, it is our responsibility to communicate the value proposition. IRWA involvement must be recognized as a critical component of organizational success. Consider a program where both employers and the IRWA team up to invest in the leaders of tomorrow. Imagine employers encouraging their employees to pursue leadership roles in the Association, and in exchange, employees receive the tools, training and support they need to develop as leaders, not just in a volunteer organization but

also in their workplace. This type of emerging leadership program could benefit everyone.

Leveraging our Resources

Over the past few years, we've positioned and invested in our International Committees and Communities of Practice to engage all members and offer opportunities to share our expertise at a regional and local level. By continuing to empower these groups, along with our Regions and Chapters, we will continue to support and invest in enhanced programming. These efforts will ensure that all of our members have access to the wealth of knowledge and experience we have to offer.

In an effort to engage more members, we plan to continue to involve our young professionals. They are our future, and they are ready to step up to the many opportunities available. So let's embrace them with an open dialogue—and with mutual goals in mind. With that commitment, plans are underway to include young professionals in upcoming leadership events, including the International Governing Council meeting this fall.

Adapting to the Market

As we continue to face employer constraints on travel, combined with a changing workforce that demands access to education in smaller chunks, our ability to provide education online is more essential than ever. We continue to rethink how we develop, present and maintain our curriculum while meeting the needs of an evolving membership.

Many of you received an introduction to our new Course 100 video-enabled platform. Launched for our members in Canada and the United States, we are now poised to add video modules for any country we serve, based on their particular laws and regulations. We've also partnered with outside entities and experts to develop new online course content. These are the kinds of programming options and partnerships that will ensure we remain relevant in an ever-changing world.

“We can't change the world overnight, but we can continue to evolve and adapt.”

As your incoming President, I am fully committed to having open discussions as we explore our organization's structure, enhance our programming and generate innovative ways to bring value to our members, employers and all those we serve. We can't change the world overnight, but we can continue to evolve and adapt. All of us on IRWA's International Executive Committee, International Governing Council and the IRWA staff look forward to serving you. This coming year is just a small part of something much bigger....our future. ✪